

Minutes

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance Meeting

May 9, 2012

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

NWTC

Type of meeting:

Strategic Planning

Note taker:

Ann Franz

Attendees:

Pete Bilski, Tom Buske, Josh Delforge, Jeff Guenther, Phillip Henslee, Paula Langteau, Brian Lancour, Tony Martens, Ralph Beck, Tom Schultz, and Ann Franz

Agenda topics

Higgins Presentation

Tom Buske, Ralph Beck and Tom Schultz

Tom Buske introduced Ralph Beck and Tom Schultz from the Military Veterans Museum. Ralph gave a history of the museum, and Tom spoke about the existing financial needs, floor plan, and discussed the promotional projects they completed thus far. The museum will focus on the stories of veterans from wars throughout our country's history. The museum has moved from its past home to a new facility off of Hwy 41 in Oshkosh. Although not open yet, there is a plan underway for the official opening of the new museum to be either in July or in August of this year.

One of the marquee projects for the museum is the restoration of a Higgins boat, which in one of six still in existence, which they have acquired. The museum is requesting the Alliance help restore the boat and assist in a replica that will be featured in the museum. The original Higgins boat will be a traveling exhibit. The goal is to have it restored and able to be used in the water. Tom Buske shared that he has seen the boat and it is in overall good shape, including the engine. The fiberglass seems to be very well intact, and Tom does not feel it would be a "major restoration". The priority between the two boats is to have restoration of the actual Higgins boat completed by 2014 for the 75th anniversary of the building of the Higgins boats. The replica of the Higgins could be a project that students from the high schools and technical colleges could work at building. Phil shared that Marinette Marine is looking for a build project to work with youth and this could be the project. It was discussed the value in having the boat being built filmed. The National World War II museum in New Orleans has a replica of the Higgins, which was built by students. There is a video that documents the construction of the boat. The Alliance members are initially interested in helping restore the Higgins. In order to better understand the cost and work associated with the restoration, the members want to have the June Alliance meeting be held in Oshkosh to view the craft.

Tom Schultz proposed a joint advertising initiative, in which the Alliance could have its logo part of a commercial about the museum for a \$50,000 investment. At this time, the members declined the invitation.

Questionnaire for November Supplier meeting & Website update

All

Tabled. Pete informed the group that he has a conflict with the date for the Supplier event (Nov. 9, 2012). There will need to be discussion at a future meeting about rescheduling the date. Ann shared that the historical information is now on the website.

Composites R & D

Josh/Ann

Ann shared that Shelly from WEDC contacted her regarding the Alliance speeding up the request for a composites R & D center. There are several organizations exploring working with WEDC on a similar center. Mark, Josh and Ann met and developed some initial thoughts about the center. There was discussion on what should be included in the center, as well as should it have someone on staff to do research or is it a place where companies could come and do their own testing and research. The center could possibly be part of the incubator center at NWTC. The Green Bay Chamber that manages the center may be interested in partnering in the project. Attached is an initial abstract of the center: <..Composites\NorthEast Wisconsin Composites Research doc.docx>.

Shelly has offered to coordinate a trip for the Alliance to tour the composites research and development center at Winona State University. The following members are interested in attending the tour for June 19, 2012: Josh, Tony, Jeff, Mark, and Pete.

Virtual shipbuilding/curriculum update

Paula

Paula shared the shipbuilding program descriptions for the continuing education courses being offered at UW Marinette. She encouraged members if anyone has further questions Paula is willing to visit companies to go over the materials in detail.

The Shipyard Orientation costs \$139 per person, and the target is new employees. There is some room for customization. The course is self-paced, on demand, and student driven. It is designed for an average of 10 hours of coursework, but it could be finished quicker,

and would likely take longer, because those that have completed it before have had fun with it, and spent more time on it. It is designed so that employers can keep track of how many hours are spent on each section by individual students. The courses in the Modern Shipbuilding Design Certificate Program can be delivered online and in person. A minimum of 8 students are needed to run the course.

Set next meeting date and agenda

All

The next meeting is Wed., June 13 at 1 p.m. Military Veterans Museum at 4300 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh. The meeting will include touring the Higgins Boat at the City Garage.

Agenda:

1. Composites testing center
2. Questionnaire for November supplier meeting
3. Website
4. Higgins boat at City Garage